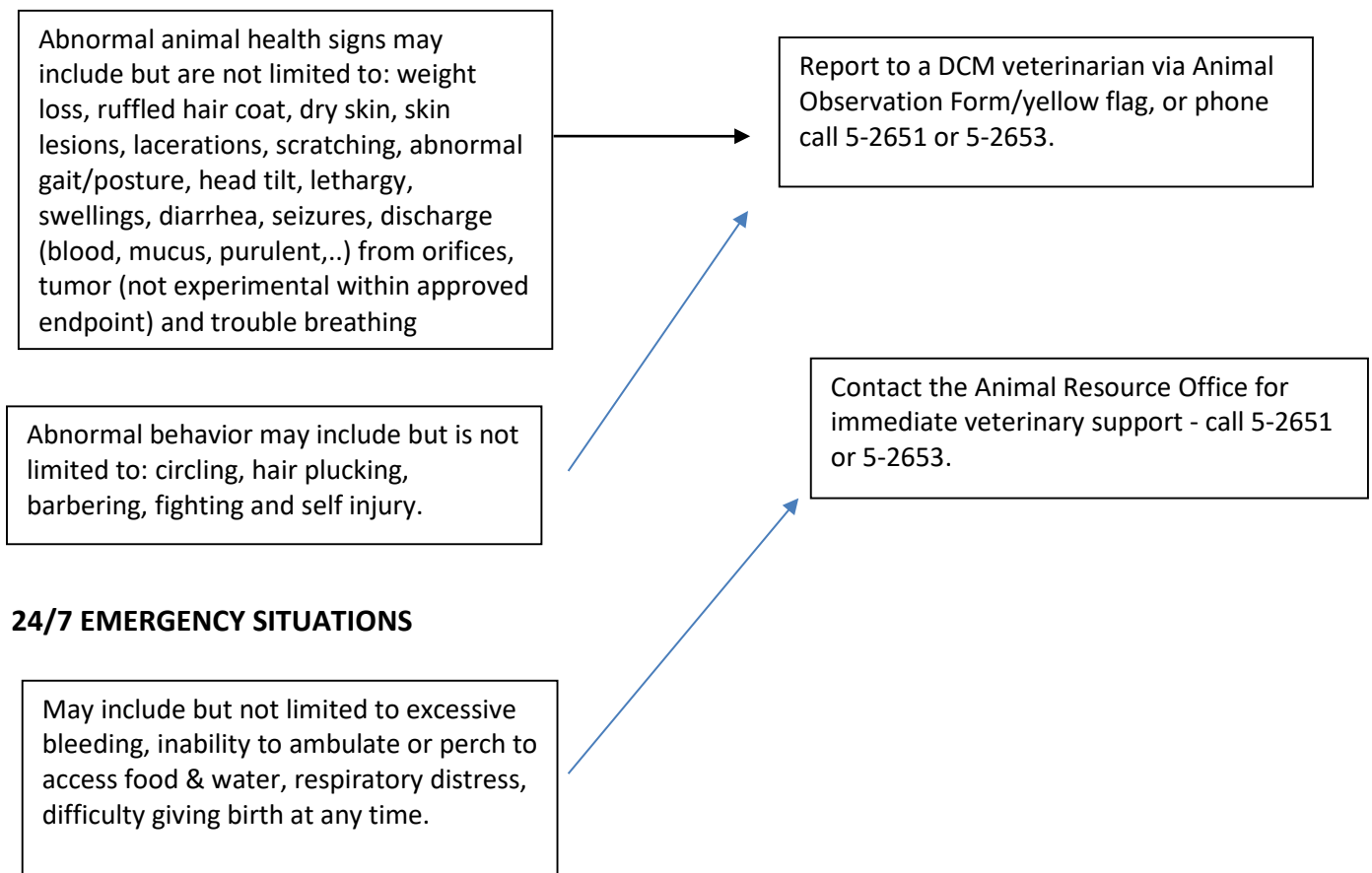


University of Rochester UCAR & DCM Policy
For Animal Care & Research Staff Reporting Animal Health
Revised and Approved 8-17-22

The University of Rochester's strong commitment to promoting the humane care and use of laboratory animals in research and testing is evidenced by a fully staffed veterinary care Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) including specialty trained, licensed and certified veterinarians and veterinary technicians. An essential component of the veterinary care program emphasizes a team approach including animal care, veterinary care, research and UCAR staff to assure the exemplary veterinary care we are accustomed to.

Research and animal care staff undergo UCAR initial animal and triennial training instructing them to report any spontaneous or research-related change in health. This point is also emphasized during ongoing post-approval monitoring (PAM) laboratory visits. Please contact the university attending veterinarian or the 24/7 emergency vet (X 5-2651 or 5-2653) if ever in doubt of what animal welfare or health conditions to report to the veterinary staff. As a rule of thumb, if something is not normal with an animal, report it to DCM for assessment.

The list of items below contains examples, and is far from a comprehensive list.



To request a veterinarian to perform an exam please fill out the [PI Request for DCM Exam \(https://redcap.urmc.rochester.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=9C38NHXWY\)](https://redcap.urmc.rochester.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=9C38NHXWY)

Step 1: Upon finding an animal that is sick, injured or with abnormal behavior, Animal Care, DCM or research staff member will mark the cage by placing a yellow post-it flag on the cage card and notify the Animal Resource office (if Animal Care or research staff) as soon as possible.

Step 2: Depending on the urgency of the situation, DCM staff will contact the lab via e-mail or telephone and will provide a summary description of the animal's condition as well as a recommendation for treatment, continued monitoring or euthanasia with consultation of the Investigator.

Upon the PI receiving notification of a sick or injured animal, one of the following actions will take place:

1. DCM will place the animal on clinical rounds and observe it according to veterinary instructions. Treatment may not be indicated
2. The veterinary staff will begin treatment in consultation with the Investigator or his/her designee, or
3. The PI's lab will start treatment prescribed by the veterinarian within the time frame stated on the notification, and record, date and initial the Treatment Record, or
4. The PI's lab will euthanize the animal within the time frame stated on the email, or
5. At the discretion of the veterinarian, DCM may euthanize the affected animal after the time frame stated on the notification or in cases of un-relievable pain and distress exceeding UCAR endpoints

With the exception of first aid or emergency life-support provided by appropriately trained personnel, animals should not be treated for illness or injury prior to consultation with the attending veterinarian or the clinical or emergency veterinarian.

References to Adequate Veterinary Care in the AWRs and the Guide:

AWR 2.3(b)(2) Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care.

“Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided however, that daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and provided further that a **mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.** “

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th ed.

Chapter 4 -Vet Care

p. 106 “Some aspects of the veterinary care program can be conducted by persons other than a veterinarian, but a **mechanism for direct and frequent communication should be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the responsible veterinarian about issues associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being,** and that appropriate treatment or euthanasia is administered.”

p. 112 “Unexpected deaths and signs of illness, distress, or other deviations from normal in animals **should be reported promptly and investigated, as necessary, to ensure appropriate and timely delivery of veterinary medical care.**”

p. 114 “There should be a **timely and accurate method for communication of any abnormalities in or concern about animal health, behavior, and well-being to the veterinarian** or the veterinarian’s designee. The responsibility for communicating these concerns rests with all those involved with animal care and use.”

p. 114 - “In the case of a pressing health problem, if the responsible person (e.g. the investigator) is not available or if the investigator and veterinary staff cannot reach consensus on treatment, the veterinarian must have the authority, delegated by senior administration and the IACUC, to treat the animal, remove it from the experiment, institute appropriate measures to relieve severe pain or distress, or perform euthanasia if necessary”.